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Salisbury City Manager Names Lieutenant Rodney Harris as Acting Police Chief

Harris to Begin Service as Acting Police Chief upon Retirement of Chief Mark Wilhelm



Salisbury, NC_December 30, 2009 – Salisbury City Manager David Treme announced today that Lieutenant (Lt.) Rodney Harris, a nineteen-year veteran with the Salisbury Police Department, will begin serving as the city's Acting Police Chief effective immediately upon retirement of Police Chief Mark Wilhelm. Wilhelm's scheduled retirement from office is slated for midnight, December 31, 2009. Harris will provide the Salisbury Police Department with leadership during the interim as interviews are conducted to name Wilhelm's successor. An announcement naming a newly selected Salisbury Police Chief is expected by mid-February 2010.

Internal applications for Chief of Police will be posted and accepted through January 15, 2010 with an anticipated conclusion for internal interviews by January 30. City Manager Treme notes that several individuals currently employed within the ranks of the Salisbury Police Department have shown an interest in the position of Police Chief. Treme states, "All things being equal, my preference is to select the most qualified individual who is currently serving in a leadership capacity within the Salisbury Police Department."

Lt. Harris is a 2009 honors graduate of Livingstone College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice. Harris began active police duty with the Salisbury Police Department in 1990 as a patrol officer. He served twelve years as an investigator, followed by four years as a police sergeant. Harris was promoted to lieutenant in 2008. Lt. Harris offers, "It is a great honor to serve the City of Salisbury and its citizens during this interim period as Acting Police Chief. It is our goal, at the Salisbury Police Department, to create an environment in which citizens and visitors feel safe in all parts of our City."

The Salisbury Police Department is an internationally accredited police department with over 110 employees. The department's mission is to provide quality law enforcement services with honest, fair, and ethical treatment of all. The City of Salisbury is an equal opportunity employer with over 180 different job classifications and more than 400 full time positions. For more information regarding the City of Salisbury and its services and departments, please visit us on the web at www.salisburync.gov. To receive updates regarding local initiatives, meetings, programs, and events, please join the City of

Salisbury's Facebook users group at www.salisburync.gov/facebook or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CitySalisburyNC>.

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